

Vol. XXXVIII.

FEBRUARY 15th, 1911.

No. 16.

What Universities Can Do For Canada.

An Address by Dr. Stephen Leacock.

THE plan for an interchange of addresses each year by professors of Queen's and McGill, first suggested by the Undergraduate Society of McGill and taken up with enthusiasm by the Arts Society here, was completed last Wednesday night, when Dr. Stephen Leacock, Professor of Political Science and Civics at McGill, addressed an open meeting of the Arts Society, in Convocation Hall. The plan has proved an unqualified success and will be continued. Dr. Leacock treated in a most thoughtful and comprehensive manner a subject of the highest importance to university men, and his well-known eloquence and humor were given full play, carning the frequent appliance of the large audience of students and professors who welcomed him.

President Telford in introducing him, referred briefly to the beginning of the movement as a result of which Dr. Leacock had come to address the Society. He said it was designed to make more helpful the already cordial relations existing between the two universities. Queen's and McGill had often met in contests of various kinds, but so far there had not been much in the way of a direct contribution from one university to the other.

Dr. Leacock first expressed his hearty gratification in being called upon to represent McGill on such an occasion, and said that the movement for an exchange of addresses was an excellent warrant for the spirit that existed between McGill and Queen's. Referring to the chairman's remarks, he said, "I am glad to know, however, that I am not to speak on a competitive basis. I am not here to establish a record for long distance, long wind, or anything of that kind. If I do not give the kind of mental food which you are expecting, do not give up the idea. You cannot emphasize the first too much that here in Canada there is no room for jealousy among our great educational institutions. The workers are all too few and the work all too great to leave any room for jealousy. We are not rivals in the narrow sense of the term."

Continuing, he said: "To-night I am to speak of the universities and their relation to Canada. We have here a subject which is of very great importance to any country at any time, but it is one of particular importance to Canada at this time. Quite apart from the platitudes of the political platform we can boast of a very great country, one of the greatest in the world. Yet any fair-minded person will be forced to admit that if you take a cross-section of us at the present time, inflated as much as we dare inflate—it with all the immigration returns and all the estimates of the census officers, it does not show